

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-23 and 31-34 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 34 has been newly added herewith.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 22, 23 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0182475) in view of Maynard (U.S. Patent No. 6,541,149).

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan and Maynard in view of Narayanan (U.S. Patent No. 6,432,284).

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan and Maynard in view of Hinokuma (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0013003).

Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan and Maynard in view of Shiue (U.S. Patent No. 6,500,575).

Applicant respectfully traverses.

In the previous Amendment, Applicant argued that Pan includes *two* flexible substrates supported face-to-face, whereas the claimed invention includes a *single* flexible substrate. Applicant has now amended claim 1 to further clarify that in the claimed invention “the entire structure of each of the plurality of cells of the stack is associated in an irremovable way to only a single flexible substrate;”. Accordingly, claim 1 has been further clarified so as to specify that the plurality of cells are associated with *only a single flexible substrate* and not *two or more* flexible substrates, as in Pan. The remaining references do not correct this deficiency of Pan.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable and that the remaining claims 3-23 and 31-33 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

New Claim

Applicant has added new claim 34. Claim 34 is allowable at least because the prior art fails to disclose that “the entire structure of each of the plurality of cells of the stack is associated in an irremovable way to a support, the support consisting of a single flexible substrate”, in combination with the other features recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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